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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

ANIBAL RODRIGUEZ, SAL

CATALDO, JULIAN

SANTIAGO, and SUSAN LYNN

HARVEY, individually and on behalf of all

others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

GOOGLE LLC,

Defendant.

Case No.: 3:20-cv-04688-RS

**PLAINTIFFS' REPLY IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTION FOR CLASS CERTIFICATION  
(DKT. 315)**

The Honorable Richard Seeborg

Courtroom 3 – 17th Floor

Date: October 5, 2023

Time: 1:30 P.M.

**UNDER SEAL**

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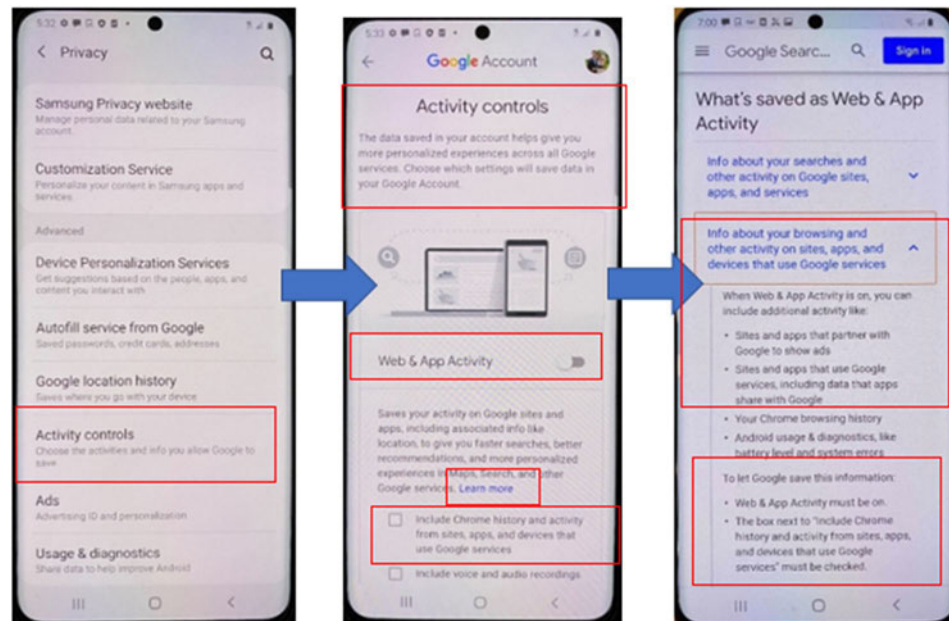
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## I. INTRODUCTION

Google does not contest that Plaintiffs meet the Rule 23(a) requirements and most of Rule 23(b)(3). Google instead focuses on predominance—arguing that Plaintiffs’ claims are the sort that can *never* be certified. That ruling would be convenient for Google, but it is wrong. This case is ideal for class certification. It centers around an on/off button (the “(s)WAA” button) that Google offered account holders, which Google said “must be on” to “let Google save” users’ activity on non-Google apps. Mot. Ex. 3.



Dkt. 289 (FAC), ¶ 90. The classes are limited to people who turned (s)WAA “off.”

Off meant off, as recognized by Google’s CEO Sundar Pichai. He told Congress that Google provides “clear toggles” for users to “decide whether that information is collected [or] stored.” Mot. 2. *Plaintiffs’ Motion explained why Mr. Pichai’s testimony was objectively false, and Google does not argue otherwise.* This is not an individualized issue: Google’s own studies prove users expect Google not to collect (s)WAA-off data. Even Google considers *all* (s)WAA-off data as “unconsented” and tags it accordingly. Still, throughout the class period and for all class members, Google collected, saved, and used (s)WAA-off data for Google’s own financial benefit.

Unable to avoid the underlying common issues, Google resorts to arguments more suited for summary judgment, stitching together Privacy Policy provisions to defend its actions and downplaying its collection of (s)WAA-off app activity data as “basic record-keeping” and

1 “pseudonymous.” Opp. 1, 3. *But Google’s arguments and euphemisms apply class-wide*, if at all.  
 2 In this glaring respect, Google’s opposition *supports* Plaintiffs’ motion.

3 Google also risks leading the Court astray by ignoring key legal authority. Plaintiffs  
 4 repeatedly cited and applied the Ninth Circuit’s leading decision on their claims, *In re Facebook,*  
 5 *Inc. Internet Tracking Litigation*, 956 F.3d 589 (9th Cir. 2020), but Google’s opposition  
 6 completely ignores it. Google does not even try to distinguish cases that certified claims like these  
 7 under Rule 23(b)(3), such as *Opperman v. Path, Inc.*, 2016 WL 3844326 (N.D. Cal. Jul. 15, 2016)  
 8 and *Harris v. comScore, Inc.*, 292 F.R.D. 579 (N.D. Ill. 2013). Google hardly mentions the  
 9 CDAFA at all, focusing almost entirely on Plaintiffs’ other claims. And Google ignores *every*  
 10 *single case* Plaintiffs cited to support 23(b)(2) certification, including this Court’s rejection of  
 11 Google’s primary argument that claims cannot be certified under both (b)(3) and (b)(2).

12 Rather than confront Plaintiffs’ authorities, Google mischaracterizes Plaintiffs’ claims and  
 13 positions. From the beginning, Google has known and admitted that “there are no fraud claims in  
 14 this case.” Dkt. 94 (Feb. 5, 2021 Hrg.) at 37. Seeking to latch onto decisions denying class  
 15 certification for fraud claims, Google now represents that this case *is* about “fraud.” Opp. 1. Google  
 16 also spins up a nonsense narrative of how Plaintiffs have some “new theory” for class certification.  
 17 This case has always concerned Google’s collection and use of (s)WAA-off data, as Google  
 18 admits. Dkt. 1 ¶ 8; Dkt. 325 at 6. Through discovery, Plaintiffs learned precisely how Google  
 19 enriches itself through data collection its lawyers now disingenuously label “basic record-  
 20 keeping.” Hochman Rep. ¶¶ 122, 270–82; § VII.F. Plaintiffs’ expert calculated damages tied to  
 21 how Google uses the data. That is how discovery and litigation are supposed to work. Plaintiffs  
 22 properly seek certification based on class-wide evidence addressing these common questions.

23 The case for certification cannot be simpler—this case is about an on/off button uniformly  
 24 offered to and turned off by class members. Google cites no case in which a binary button created  
 25 individualized issues. “Off” should have an objective meaning in law, just as “no” is a universally  
 26 accepted signal for a refusal. Google throws a Hail Mary on implied consent, but it cannot identify  
 27 a single article, survey, or policy that would suggest individualized issues. Google’s excuses for  
 28 betraying its uniform representations apply class-wide, confirming that certification is appropriate.



1 **II. ARGUMENT**

2 **A. Common questions predominate with respect to the CDAFA claim.**

3 Google barely musters an argument against Plaintiffs’ CDAFA claim. Google does not  
 4 dispute that the first element—“access”—will be adjudicated on a class-wide basis, nor that  
 5 “permission” is determined objectively, by reference to words and actions “conveyed from one  
 6 person to another.” Mot. 16, 18. That is important because the relevant act here is uniform: All  
 7 Plaintiffs and class members had (s)WAA turned off. *See Harris*, 292 F.R.D. at 585 (authorization  
 8 is a “common” question under the CFAA, the federal analog to the CDAFA); *cf. Cox v. Louisiana*,  
 9 379 U.S. 559, 570 & n.4 (1964) (evaluating “permission” by reference to what “was ever  
 10 communicated,” *not* “subjective[] intent”). Google also does not dispute that whether it “took” and  
 11 “made use of” Plaintiff’s (s)WAA-off data turns on common evidence and class-wide practices.

12 Unable to dispute that these elements are subject to common proof, Google stakes out a  
 13 meritless position on statutory standing under the CDAFA, which is satisfied by any “damage or  
 14 loss” no matter how small. *NovelPoster v. Javitch Canfield Grp.*, 140 F. Supp. 3d 954, 964–65  
 15 (N.D. Cal. 2014) (“any amount of damage or loss ... is enough”). Plaintiffs’ Motion identified  
 16 three ways that this “damage or loss” will be adjudicated on a class-wide basis. Mot. 17. *First*,  
 17 Plaintiffs’ proof of Google’s class-wide unjust enrichment satisfies this element. *Facebook*  
 18 *Tracking*, 956 F.3d at 600–01 (plaintiffs’ stake in unjust profits satisfies damages or loss under the  
 19 CDAFA); Dkt. 314-7 (“Lasinski Rep.”) § 7 (calculating unjust enrichment). *Second*, “there is a  
 20 market for [class members’] data—one Google itself has created,” and Google took class  
 21 members’ data without paying for it. *Brown v. Google LLC*, 2023 WL 5029899, at \*19 (N.D. Cal.  
 22 Aug. 7, 2023); Lasinski Rep. § 8 (opining on the market for this data). *Third*, by sending data to  
 23 Google, Google’s conduct drains battery life and causes class members’ devices to run slower. *See*  
 24 *In re Carrier IQ, Inc. Consumer Privacy Litig.*, 78 F. Supp. 3d 1051, 1066–67 (N.D. Cal. 2015);  
 25 *see also Williams v. Facebook, Inc.*, 498 F. Supp. 3d 1189, 1200 (N.D. Cal. 2019) (Seeborg, C.J.);  
 26 Mot. Ex. 13 at 138:19–23 (testimony of technical expert Jonathan Hochman); Mot. Ex. 64 at -10;  
 27 Mot. Ex. 65 at -98; Dkt. 314-6 (“Schneier Rep.”) ¶ 102; Ex. 70 at 224:18–225:7 (Google  
 28

1 representative explaining how transmitting data to Google’s servers “use[s] ... the end user’s  
2 device resources and bandwidth”). Google ignores all of this class-wide evidence.

3 Rather than confront Plaintiffs’ arguments, Google rewrites the CDAFA, incorrectly  
4 seeking to limit monetary relief to “expenditure[s] . . . to verify” whether computers were damaged.  
5 Opp. 15. That argument is obviously wrong, because Google cites the wrong part of the statute.  
6 Section (b)(11) defines “victim expenditures”—not “compensatory damages,” as Google claims.  
7 Rather than limit compensatory damages to victim expenditures, the statute makes clear that  
8 compensatory damages “shall include” such victim expenditures. Cal. Penal Code § 502(e)(1). The  
9 victim-expenditures provision does not limit the available relief; it *expands* it. *See Brown*, 2023  
10 WL 5029899, at \*19 (recognizing a right to restitution under the CDAFA); *Oracle USA, Inc. v.*  
11 *Rimini Street, Inc.*, 191 F. Supp. 3d 1134, 1145-46 (D. Nev. 2016), *rev’d on other grounds*, 879  
12 F.3d 948 (9th Cir. 2018). Google also ignores how the CDAFA separately provides for “injunctive  
13 relief or other equitable relief.” Cal. Penal Code § 502(e)(1); *Facebook Tracking*, 956 F.3d at 601  
14 (recognizing a right to disgorgement of profits).

15 **B. Common questions predominate with respect to the two privacy tort claims.**

16 These claims have two elements: (1) whether “there exists a reasonable expectation of  
17 privacy” and (2) whether “the intrusion was highly offensive.” *Facebook Tracking*, 956 at 601.  
18 Both elements are subject to common proof, and Google concedes the standard is objective. Opp.  
19 13-14 (citing “objectively reasonable expectation” standard). To determine if there was a  
20 reasonable expectation of privacy, the factfinder should consider “the identity of the intruder,”  
21 “the extent to which other persons had access to the subject place,” and “the means by which the  
22 intrusion occurred.” *Hernandez v. Hillsides, Inc.*, 47 Cal.4th 272, 286–87 (2009). Those are  
23 common issues, focusing on the nature of the intruder and the intrusion. The Court likewise stated  
24 that the offensiveness inquiry is essentially a “policy determination,” taking into account “the  
25 degree and setting of the intrusion[] and the intruder’s motives and objectives.” *Id.* Both elements  
26 focus on the defendant, and neither involves any analysis of the plaintiff’s background or personal  
27 beliefs. *See id.* at 288–300 (analyzing privacy tort claims without discussing the attributes of any  
28 plaintiff); *Shulman v. Grp. W Prods., Inc.*, 18 Cal.4th 200, 230–242 (1998) (same).

Common questions predominate because, consistent with established California law, these two elements will be decided based on common proof. The expectation of privacy will be decided based on Google’s class-wide, uniform representations, focusing on the (s)WAA on/off button. Mot. 10–12. Google’s intrusion is also subject to common proof regarding how Google collects and uses (s)WAA off data. Mot. 13–14; *see also* Dkt. 331 (“Daubert Opp.”) at 2–4; Dkt. 314–5 (“Hochman Rep.”) § VII.F (describing (s)WAA-off ad targeting at ¶¶ 273–77). Google does not dispute that (s)WAA is presented as a “privacy control.” Mot. 10. Because the “private place” and the “[defendant’s] conduct [is] the same for all class members,” Plaintiffs’ claims “can be proven on a common basis.” *Opperman*, 2016 WL 3844326, at \*11. Google neither contests these facts nor distinguishes *Opperman*. Opp. 12–15.

Google’s contention that privacy torts are simply too “fact-dependent” to be certified under Rule 23(b)(3) is wrong, and not the law. *See Opperman*, 2016 WL 3844326, at \*11. Google claims this extreme conclusion is compelled by *Kight v. CashCall, Inc.*, 231 Cal. App. 4th 112, 130 (2014) and *Hataishi v. First Am. Home Buyers Prot. Corp.*, 223 Cal. App. 4th 1454, 1467–68 (2014), but *neither case involved privacy tort claims at all*. The plaintiffs in those cases asserted claims under Section 632 of the California Invasion of Privacy Act, which by statute requires “an analysis of the totality of the factual circumstances,” including “the parties to the communication.” *Kight*, 231 Cal. App. 4th at 131 (quoting Cal. Penal Code § 632(c)). The *Kight* court did *not* “analyze [§ 632 claims] as analogous to a privacy tort,” as Google contends (Opp. 14)—it conducted a different analysis, required by statute. *Kight* and *Hataishi* do not even mention privacy torts, and no court has extended their holding to common-law or constitutional privacy claims.

Even if the Court had not previously dismissed Plaintiffs’ Section 632 claim, Dkt. 109 at 13, *Kight* and *Hataishi* would not apply because neither case presented an objective on/off button uniformly turned to off. Google assured users that the (s)WAA button “must be on” to “let Google save” their activity on non-Google apps. Class members had that control turned to off. *Mass v. Regents of Univ. of Cal.*, 2020 WL 13584234, at \*7 (Cal. Super. May 5, 2020) (distinguishing *Hataishi*, which “concerned the understandings of the absent class members in the *absence* of affirmative statements” (emphasis added)). Also, unlike Google, the defendants in *Kight* and

1 *Hataishi* actually *did* warn *some* class members that their phone calls were recorded. *Kight*, 231  
 2 Cal. App. 4th at 129 (“most inbound callers received an automated disclosure regarding call  
 3 monitoring”); *Hataishi*, 223 Cal. App. 4th at 1466 (“[e]xcept for certain limited circumstances, a  
 4 customer making an inbound call to the defendant was greeted with an automated Call Monitoring  
 5 Disclosure.” (cleaned up)). Glaringly, Google identifies no such disclosures in this case; Google  
 6 instead relies for its defense on its own *uniform* written disclosures, taking three pages to  
 7 desperately explain how selective provisions nonsensically say that “off” means “on.” Opp. 7-9.  
 8 *Kight* and *Hataishi* do not apply. *See NEI Cont. & Eng’g, Inc. v. Hanson Aggregates Pac. Sw.,*  
 9 *Inc.*, 2015 WL 1309938, at \*4–7 (S.D. Cal. Mar. 24, 2015) (describing these separate lines of  
 10 cases); *Romero v. Securus Techs., Inc.*, 331 F.R.D. 391, 411 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 21, 2018) (certifying  
 11 class because the defendant’s omission of recording warning was uniform to all class members).

12 Google’s remaining cases are irrelevant to the question currently before the Court, *i.e.*,  
 13 whether Plaintiffs’ claims can be adjudicated on a class-wide basis. In each case, the plaintiffs’  
 14 privacy tort claims were dismissed before the class certification stage.<sup>1</sup> Here, the Court denied  
 15 Google’s motion to dismiss these claims. Dkt. 109 at 15–16. If anything, Google’s cases reinforce  
 16 Plaintiffs’ motion for class certification: Each court adjudicated the privacy claims without  
 17 discussing the plaintiffs’ specific backgrounds. These cases also did not involve an on/off button.

### 18 **C. Common questions predominate with respect to harm.**

19 Google’s “harm” arguments likewise provide no basis to deny Plaintiffs’ motion. Google  
 20 claims that class members suffered no harm because the data is not sensitive and because the data  
 21 is “anonymous,” but these are also common issues, subject to class-wide proof. And these Google  
 22 assertions are in any case irrelevant. For the CDAFA claim, there is no such requirement to  
 23 demonstrate the data is sensitive or not anonymous; Plaintiffs need only prove “damage or loss”  
 24

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25 <sup>1</sup> *See, e.g., Hammerling v. Google LLC*, 615 F. Supp. 3d 1069, 1088 (N.D. Cal. 2022); *I.C. v.*  
 26 *Zynga, Inc.*, 600 F. Supp. 3d 1034, 1046, 1049 (N.D. Cal. 2022); *Heeger v. Facebook, Inc.*, 509 F.  
 27 Supp. 3d 1182, 1193 (N.D. Cal. 2020); *In re iPhone Application Litig.*, 844 F. Supp. 2d 1040, 1063  
 28 (N.D. Cal. 2012); *Cousin v. Sharp Healthcare*, 2023 WL 4484441, at \*6 (S.D. Cal. Jul. 12, 2023);  
*Folgelstrom v. Lamps Plus, Inc.*, 195 Cal. App. 4th 986, 993 (2011).

1 under the statute, and Plaintiffs have done so. *See supra* Section II.A. Google presents only its own  
 2 say-so, citing no authority requiring Plaintiffs to do more.

3 As for the privacy claims, Google ignores the leading Ninth Circuit case, where the court  
 4 held that an “invasion of the historically recognized right to privacy” amounts to injury in and of  
 5 itself. *Facebook Tracking*, 956 F.3d at 599, 606.<sup>2</sup> “[I]nformation need not be personally identifying  
 6 to be private.” *In re Google Referrer Header Priv. Litig.*, 465 F. Supp. 3d 999, 1009–10 (N.D. Cal.  
 7 2020). While not required, Plaintiffs will use common evidence to prove the data is sensitive.  
 8 Plaintiffs’ experts will explain how Google’s so-called “record-keeping” of (s)WAA-off app  
 9 activity reveals political leanings, sexual orientation, reproductive decisions, spiritual beliefs,  
 10 medical information, and more. *See* Hochman Rep. ¶¶ 3, 187–88, 311; Schneier Rep. ¶¶ 89–99;  
 11 *see also* Ex. 71 at -23 (describing the “sensitive nature of the data being collected”); Daubert Opp.  
 12 22–23. What is more, Google tags the data as private via “bits” or “fields” that, in Google’s own  
 13 words, “indicates WAA and sWAA status alongside ad interactions, e.g., views and clicks.” Opp.  
 14 Ex. 21 at 16. Hochman Rep. ¶¶ 136, 206–07, 216, 235. Google not only learns what the user  
 15 expected to keep private from Google, but also admits this data was supposed to be private from  
 16 Google. Even if Google were now to about-face and argue that this data is *not* private, the issue is  
 17 still a common one.

18 While also not required, Plaintiffs will use common evidence to prove that (s)WAA-off  
 19 data is identifying. When (s)WAA is off, Google simply diminishes its reliance on one identifier  
 20 (GAIA) while continuing to use other identifiers, including proprietary Google identifiers. *See*,  
 21 e.g., Hochman Rep. ¶¶ 100–11, 123–25, 210; Ex. 72 at 53:18–54:2 (there is a “false dichotomy”  
 22 between GAIA and non-GAIA data). Google puts great weight on the claim that it does not serve  
 23 “personalized” ads, but Google tellingly does not contest that it still “targets” ads using data (e.g.,  
 24 location, language, device, and other information) from the app the (s)WAA-off user is browsing.

25  
 26 <sup>2</sup> Google incorrectly suggests the Court previously determined the data in this case is not sensitive.  
 27 Opp. 16. Instead, the Court determined that this data is not “confidential” under CIPA § 632  
 28 because it may be recorded by app developers. *Id.* at 13. The Court then rejected Google’s  
 arguments that the content of this information is not sensitive. *Id.* at 15–16.

1 See Hochman Rep. ¶¶ 273–77. Even Google’s privacy employees acknowledge this kind of data  
 2 is “tied to a data subject” and therefore not “anonymous.” See Ex. 73 at 106:16–107:1, 110:2-19.  
 3 Google’s lawyers likewise admit that (s)WAA-off data is tied to the device that the (s)WAA-off  
 4 user carries in their pocket. Opp. 3. And Plaintiffs’ experts will testify that this data is identifying,  
 5 including through an analysis of the data produced in this case. Hochman Rep. § VII.G, I. As one  
 6 of Google’s engineers summarized, “I’m not any safer with [(s)WAA] off than on. Google will  
 7 still give up any information (such as my location) for any legal investigation against me because  
 8 it has the data available.” Mot. Ex. 7 at -09–10.

9 Finally, each plaintiff testified about their harm, and Google’s characterization of their  
 10 testimony as admitting to “no harm” is false.<sup>3</sup> Google makes much of the fact that they continue  
 11 to use Google products and services, but that is legally and factually irrelevant. It is a “heads I win,  
 12 tails you lose” position Google has taken in various cases. If the plaintiffs were to stop using  
 13 Google products, Google would argue they lack standing to seek injunctive relief. *In re Yahoo*  
 14 *Mail Litig.*, 308 F.R.D. 577, 589 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (rejecting arguments about plaintiffs’ continued  
 15 use of the product because that “would put Plaintiffs in a catch-22 that would essentially preclude  
 16 injunctive relief altogether”). Google is liable for collecting data without permission, while class  
 17 members had (s)WAA turned off. This is unlike the misrepresentation cases Google cites, in which  
 18 plaintiffs must show reliance. *Orshan v. Apple Inc.*, 2023 WL 3568079, at \*12 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 31,  
 19 2023) (discussing the Consumer Legal Remedies Act, which requires reliance); *Silva v. B&G*  
 20 *Foods, Inc.*, 2022 WL 4596615, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 26, 2022) (plaintiffs claimed they purchased

21  
 22 <sup>3</sup> Ex. 74 (Harvey) at 237:21-238:22, 248:13-19 (“[i]t’s very disturbing and offensive” that “my  
 23 personal information has been collected. It’s been saved. It’s been used.”); Ex. 75 (Rodriguez) at  
 24 82:24-84:1, 247:23-249:15 (“[t]he harm ... is the fear of someone getting your information and  
 25 who knows what they’re using it for. ... I should feel safe. But when you don’t feel safe, isn’t that  
 26 harmful? It is.”); Ex. 76 (Santiago) at 227:8–228:7, 291:6-9 (“a huge invasion of my privacy.  
 27 Information that I thought was personal to me or I expected to be personal to me that I value, to be  
 28 accessed by Google without my permission.”); Ex. 77 (Cataldo) at 27:9-28:6, 76:5-77:12 (“the  
 surreptitious taking of my information damages me. ... [T]here’s a value to private information  
 intrinsic to the fact it’s private. ... [T]hat privacy is important. It’s a core right.”). Google also  
 inappropriately focuses attention on Mr. Rodriguez’s son, who is a minor and a non-party. Google  
 offers no evidence of whether it had permission to save his data.



the product at issue in reliance on a misrepresentation). As Google told the Court, “[t]here are no fraud claims in this case.” Dkt. 94 (Feb. 5, 2021 Hrg.) at 37. Third, Plaintiffs’ decision to use Gmail or a Google phone is irrelevant to Google’s collection of app activity data; as Plaintiffs’ expert will explain, Google’s data vacuum is impossible to avoid and is unaffected by those “choices.” *See* Hochman Rep. ¶¶ 2, 59, 249–57, 355–56 (the at-issue SDKs are ubiquitous, and data collection cannot be turned off). As the plaintiffs testified at their depositions, they have not changed behavior to support this investigation. Exs. 74-77. These facts do not undermine harm.

**D. Common questions predominate with respect to monetary relief.**

Google’s arguments regarding damages are contrary to Ninth Circuit law. The Ninth Circuit requires plaintiffs to show that “the whole class suffered damages traceable to the same injurious course of conduct.” *Just Film, Inc. v. Buono*, 847 F.3d 1108, 1120 (9th Cir. 2017). For reasons already explained, Google’s uniform course of conduct caused the injuries suffered by all class members. Issues regarding “damages calculations alone cannot defeat class certification.” *Pulaski & Middleman, LLC v. Google, Inc.*, 802 F.3d 979, 986 (9th Cir. 2015). Even so, Plaintiffs explained how *four* types of available relief can be calculated on a class-wide basis: (1) disgorgement of profits, *see Facebook Tracking*, 956 F.3d at 599–601 (“unauthorized use of their information,” including under the CDAFA); Restatement (Third) of Restitution § 44, cmt. b (interference with the “right of privacy”); (2) actual damages, including restitution, *see Brown*, 2023 WL 5029899, at \*19 (holding that market-based measure is a form of compensable “damage or loss” under the CDAFA); (3) punitive damages, Cal. Penal Code § 502(e)(4); *Condon v. Condon*, 2008 WL 11338437, at \*7 (C.D. Cal. Jun. 6, 2008) (privacy claims); and (4) nominal damages, *see Opperman*, 2016 WL 3844326, at \*15–16 (certifying class to seek nominal damages for privacy violation); *Avina v. Spurlock*, 28 Cal. App. 3d 1086, 1088 (1972) (generally describing when nominal damages are available); *Uzuegbunam v. Preczewski*, 141 S. Ct. 792 (2021) (nominal damages can redress past wrong). *See* Mot. 19–22. Google does not grapple with any of this, all of which far exceeds Rule 23(b)(3)’s requirements.

Instead of addressing Plaintiffs’ actual calculations, Google faults Plaintiffs for (in Google’s view) failing to offer a *fifth* method of calculating monetary relief, based on emotional

1 distress. Opp. 18-19. The law does not require plaintiffs to offer methodologies for every  
 2 theoretical measure of relief. *See, e.g., Mullins v. Premier Nutrition Corp.*, 2016 WL 1535057, at  
 3 \*6–7 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 15, 2016) (certifying class based on restitution model, which was just “one  
 4 of the possible remedies”); *Davis v. Abercrombie*, 2014 WL 4956454, at \*21–23 (D. Haw. Sept.  
 5 30, 2014) (certifying class for nominal but not compensatory damages). Google cites *Opperman*,  
 6 but that case lends no support. Judge Tigar entertained a class-wide actual damages model for  
 7 privacy torts but found that the expert’s methodology was unreliable, based on flaws absent from  
 8 Plaintiffs’ models. *See* Daubert Opp. 24. Moreover, Judge Tigar *certified* a nominal damages class.

9 **E. Common questions predominate with respect to any consent defense.**

10 **1. Express consent does not defeat predominance.**

11 By definition, express consent is resolved on a class-wide basis. “[I]n determining whether  
 12 Plaintiffs have expressly consented,” the only relevant materials are “[t]he agreements between  
 13 Google and its users.” *In re Google Inc. Gmail Litig.*, 2014 WL 1102660, at \*19 (N.D. Cal. Mar.  
 14 18, 2014). Here, the applicable materials are the (s)WAA disclosures and Google’s Privacy Policy,  
 15 which are the same for all class members. *See* Opp. 6–9. Individualized inquiries are unnecessary.  
 16 *See, e.g., Reaves v. Ketoro, Inc.*, 2020 WL 5488858, at \*10 (C.D. Cal. Jul. 17, 2020). Whether  
 17 these materials expressly notify users of Google’s collection of (s)WAA-off app activity data will  
 18 be decided class-wide.

19 To manufacture individualized issues (which would not even predominate), Google  
 20 invokes contract principles (Opp. 24), but these principles support Plaintiffs. Google claims it  
 21 needs “extrinsic evidence” from each class member to prove express consent insofar as Plaintiffs’  
 22 “reading of the WAA disclosures [] renders them ambiguous.” Opp. 20. Set aside Google’s  
 23 conflicting position that these disclosures have an “unambiguous meaning.” *Id.* The fundamental  
 24 problem is that standardized agreements are interpreted to “treat[] alike all those similarly situated,  
 25 without regard to their knowledge or understanding of the standard terms of the writing.” *Williams*  
 26 *v. Apple, Inc.*, 338 F.R.D. 629, 638 (N.D. Cal. 2021). As Judge Davila explained to Google just  
 27 last month, courts should not “inquire into a party’s mindset or knowledge” in circumstances like  
 28 these; courts should instead “seek[] to effectuate the reasonable expectations of the average



1 member of the public.” *Cabrera v. Google LLC*, 2023 WL 5279463, at \*18 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 15,  
 2 2023). That is a class-wide determination, which will depend on class-wide evidence. And that  
 3 class-wide evidence does not come anywhere close to expressly disclosing (or obtaining consent  
 4 for) Google’s collection of (s)WAA-off data. Quite the opposite: When Google concisely says  
 5 users can “[c]hoose the activities and info you allow Google to save,” and that (s)WAA “must be  
 6 on” “to let Google save” data about what they do on non-Google apps, that creates an objective  
 7 expectation that Google won’t collect and save (s)WAA-off app activity data. *See* Mot. 10–12.

8 Google places great weight on the term “Google Account,” arguing that it somehow had  
 9 consent to store (s)WAA-off data in some undefined location outside of the “Google Account.”  
 10 Opp. 20–21. Google presents zero evidence that a single person shared its view, and no wonder.  
 11 This Court has already held that “the concept of a ‘Google Account’ is, at best, nebulous.” Dkt.  
 12 109 at 8. Google *still* offers no definition of a Google Account; it simply points to instructions for  
 13 how to create one. *See* Opp. Appx. A at 52; *see also* Ex. 78 at 294:19-296:12 (Google’s expert on  
 14 its disclosures admitting Google does not define the term). Testimony from Google’s technical  
 15 expert is common and supports Plaintiffs; he admitted that a Google Account comprises “your  
 16 relationship with Google,” including “all kinds of other information that Google keeps that is  
 17 associated to your identity”—i.e., the identifying information at issue. Ex. 79 (“Black Tr.”) at  
 18 139:9–14. Google’s CEO likewise told Congress that users can decide “*whether* [activity]  
 19 information is collected, stored”—not simply *where*. Schneier Rep. ¶ 254. Consistent with Mr.  
 20 Pichai’s (inaccurate) testimony, the evidence proves that on/off refers is supposed to control  
 21 *whether* data is saved. *See* Mot. 12, 15 (citing studies). In any event, the parties’ dispute over the  
 22 import of the term “Google Account” is a common issue, resolved with class-wide evidence.

## 23 **2. Implied consent does not defeat predominance.**

24 Implied consent is not a defense to Plaintiffs’ remaining claims. That concept is from the  
 25 wiretap statutes, where implied consent turns on third-party “sources” that users were “exposed”  
 26 to. Opp. 23. The CDAFA, by contrast, imposes liability when the defendant takes data “without  
 27 permission.” Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(2). Permission requires more than exposure to third-party  
 28 sources; permission requires words and/or actions conveyed from the purported permission-giver

1 to the purported permission-seeker. *In re Carrier IQ*, 78 F. Supp. 3d at; *see also* Mot. 18; Section  
 2 II.B, *supra*. Google neither disputes this proposition nor addresses Plaintiffs’ authorities. Inquiring  
 3 into class members’ state of mind—or any other fact not conveyed from class members to  
 4 Google—would undermine the California Legislature’s specific choice to require *permission*  
 5 before taking data, rather than mere suspicion or knowledge. *See Harris*, 292 F.R.D. at 585  
 6 (certifying class to assert analogous federal claims). The same is true of Plaintiffs’ privacy claims,  
 7 which also turn on objective standards. By definition, an objective standard is inconsistent with an  
 8 examination of individual users’ states of mind. This is why Judge Tigar in *Opperman* rejected  
 9 Google’s argument that individual inquiries are required. 2016 WL 3844326, at \*11. [REDACTED]  
 10 [REDACTED]  
 11 [REDACTED] Hochman Rep. ¶¶ 161, 166, 175. And even if implied consent  
 12 could be asserted as a defense to these claims in other cases (it cannot), it is unavailable here  
 13 because Google contractually promised not to reduce rights under the Privacy Policy “without  
 14 your *explicit* consent.” *E.g.*, Mot. Ex. 22 at 16.

15 Even if permitted as a defense, this does not defeat predominance. Proving implied consent  
 16 requires Google to identify actual evidence that class members knew about and consented to the  
 17 “specific practice alleged in this case,” i.e., Google’s collection, saving, and use of (s)WAA-off app  
 18 activity data. *Campbell v. Facebook Inc.*, 77 F. Supp. 3d 836, 848 (N.D. Cal. 2014). “[C]onsent is  
 19 only effective if the person alleging harm consented ‘to the particular conduct, or to substantially  
 20 the same conduct’ and if the alleged tortfeasor did not exceed the scope of that consent.” *Brown*,  
 21 2023 WL 5029899, at \*7 (citing Restatement (Second) of Torts § 892A (1979)). Google would  
 22 need to identify sources that “‘explicitly notify’ users of the practice at issue.” *In re Google RTB*  
 23 *Consumer Priv. Litig.*, 606 F. Supp. 3d 935, 949 (N.D. Cal. 2022). Google’s cases agree.<sup>4</sup>

24  
 25  
 26 <sup>4</sup> *See Hart v. TWC Prod. & Tech. LLC*, 2023 WL 3568078, at \*11 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 30, 2023)  
 27 (“undisputed” that sources “explicitly disclosed the practices at issue”); *Brown v. Google LLC*,  
 28 2022 WL 17961497, at \*18–19 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 12, 2022) (“several media and academic reports  
 [] publicly disclosed the alleged conduct”); *In re Gmail*, 2014 WL 1102660, at \*17 (“there is a  
 panoply of sources” disclosing the challenged practices).

1 Implied consent also presents no obstacle to certification because Google “present[s] no  
 2 evidence” to support such a defense. *True Health Chiropractic, Inc. v. McKesson Corp.*, 896 F.3d  
 3 923, 931–32 (9th Cir. 2018) (“[W]e do not consider the consent defenses that [the defendant] might  
 4 advance or for which it has presented no evidence.”). Google identifies no sources that disclose  
 5 Google’s collection of (s)WAA-off app activity data. Unlike in *Brown*, Google did not conduct an  
 6 expert survey to probe user knowledge. Unlike in *Hart*, *Brown*, and *Gmail*, Google does not even  
 7 try to identify a *single* media source disclosing that Google collects the at-issue data, and Plaintiffs  
 8 are aware of none. *Plaintiffs specifically asked Google in an interrogatory to identify any such*  
 9 *media sources, and Google identified none.* Ex. 80 at 8. *Hart* also supports Plaintiffs because it  
 10 recognized that “an inquiry into the reasonable expectation of privacy under the California  
 11 Constitution largely entails an assessment of *objective* criteria that are susceptible to generalized,  
 12 class-wide proof.” *Hart*, 2023 WL 3568078, at \* 9 n.6 (emphasis added).

13 Rather than identify surveys or media reports (like the defendants in the cases it cites),  
 14 Google relies on app developers’ privacy policies. Ex. TK at 10. The problem for Google is that  
 15 *none* of these policies disclose the “specific practice alleged.” *Id.*; *Campbell*, 77 F. Supp. 3d at  
 16 848. Google requires all developers to disclose their use of Google Analytics; *no policy* mentions  
 17 (s)WAA or otherwise discloses that Google does not honor its users’ privacy settings. That is not  
 18 enough to “convincingly show that the party knew about and consented to” Google’s collection of  
 19 (s)WAA-off data, *In re Gmail*, 2014 WL 1102660, at \*16, the “specific practice” in this case.

20 This Court previously rejected Google’s reliance on the *same* app privacy policies, which  
 21 Google attached to its initial motion to dismiss. Dkt. 325, at ¶ 4 (noting these are the same policies).  
 22 Notwithstanding these same policies, this Court held that “Plaintiffs offer a cogent account of why  
 23 they saw WAA as capable of turning off GA for Firebase’s collection of their third-party app data.”  
 24 Dkt. 109 at 7–10; *see also Prouty v. Gores Tech. Grp.*, 121 Cal. App. 4th 1225, 1235 (2004)  
 25 (“under well established principles of contract interpretation, when a general and a particular  
 26 provision are inconsistent, the particular and specific provision is paramount to the general  
 27 provision”). In any event, as with Google’s other arguments, this issue will be resolved class-wide.  
 28

1 Google contends that “the 1.5 million [apps] were required to and did disclose their use of Google  
2 Analytics.” Opp. 2. Whether that fact absolves Google is a class-wide issue.<sup>5</sup>

3 So Google tries to change the topic, arguing that users know they receive Google ads and  
4 that additional settings that impact ads. Opp. 21-22.<sup>6</sup> *Google cites no evidence* users know a  
5 Google ad when they see one. *See id.* (no citation whatsoever). Regardless, Google’s argument  
6 completely misses the point: Google must prove class members consented to *Google’s saving and*  
7 *use of (s)WAA-off data*, not Google advertising.<sup>7</sup> Google neither argues nor offers evidence that  
8 Google ads or any other settings disclose that Google saves and uses (s)WAA-off data. Google’s  
9 defense is especially bizarre given Google continues to (incorrectly) insist that it “already serves  
10 ads without receiving sWAA-off data.” Dkt. 330 at 15. Courts “do not consider the consent  
11 defenses ... for which [the defendant] has presented no evidence.” *True Health*, 896 F.3d at 932.

12 The existence of other settings also does not create individualized issues. Even class  
13 members who used these settings had (s)WAA turned off, and **there is no control that can prevent**  
14 **Google from saving and using (s)WAA-off data.** The settings Google mentions **redact one**  
15 **identifier**; Google still collects and saves everything else. Hochman Rep. ¶¶ 103-04, 274. **Google**  
16 **uses the remaining data to serve ads and track and attribute conversions**, so there is no reason to  
17 exclude this subset of users. Hochman Rep. ¶¶ 274, 292-96. Finally, Google’s argument about pre-  
18 2016 users whose WAA was “off” by default ignores the fact that at the start of the class period,  
19 these class members received a “consent bump” prompt through which Google urged them to turn  
20 (s)WAA on. Ex. 81 at 6 (“Google Accountholders as of June 2016 ... were shown the Consent

21 <sup>5</sup> Google identifies other provisions in privacy policies, none of which are relevant. (s)WAA-off  
22 users have already opted out of analytics across all apps. If a developer offers the opportunity to  
23 opt out of analytics, that would not suggest that (s)WAA is ineffective. A general offer to opt out  
24 in one app in no way suggests that turning (s)WAA off is ineffective. The same is true of  
25 developers’ general offer to delete data sent to Google. Developers cannot give users the power to  
26 opt out of Google’s data collection. Hochman Rep. ¶¶ 258–67.

25 <sup>6</sup> Google’s reliance on Mr. Cataldo’s testimony makes no sense. Mr. Cataldo understood that  
26 turning (s)WAA off would prevent Google from collecting app activity data for any purpose. Mr.  
27 Cataldo did not testify that Google had his permission to collect app activity data to serve ads.

27 <sup>7</sup> Google’s use of (s)WAA-off data to serve ads is relevant only to Mr. Lasinski’s unjust enrichment  
28 Scenario Two model. Even if Google’s argument is credited, it would not affect Plaintiffs’ other  
theories and damages models.

Bump Agreement upon logging into their accounts.”); Hochman Rep. ¶ 55; Schneier Rep. ¶ 377. These class members refused, affirmatively denying Google permission to collect their data. Even if they are somehow differently situated, the solution is subclassing, not denial of certification.

**F. Rule 23(b)(2) certification is also warranted.**

A class can be certified both under Rule 23(b)(3) and under Rule 23(b)(2)” “[T]he provisions are not mutually exclusive.” *Smith v. Univ. of Wash., Law Sch.*, 233 F.3d 1188, 1196 (9th Cir. 2000). Google’s cases state the uncontroversial principle that unless a class is certified under Rule 23(b)(3), it can obtain monetary relief only if it is “incidental to [the] primary claim for injunctive relief.” *Zinser v. Accufix Res. Inst., Inc.*, 253 F.3d 1180, 1195 (9th Cir. 2001). These authorities “limit[] only the relief plaintiffs can seek under a Rule 23(b)(2) class, not the relief they can seek in their suit as a whole.” *In re Xyrem Antitrust Litig.*, 2023 WL 3440399, at \*12 (N.D. Cal. May 12, 2023) (Seeborg, C.J.). Google ignored *Xyrem* and *all* of Plaintiffs’ 23(b)(2) cases.

Google’s remaining arguments are equally meritless. While Plaintiffs disagree that Google has raised any “individualized defenses” (Opp. 25), it is of no moment. For Rule 23(b)(2), “*in contrast to Rule 23(b)(3) classes, the focus is not on the claims of individual class members, but rather whether [a defendant] has engaged in a ‘common policy.’*” *In re Yahoo Mail*, 308 F.R.D. at 599. Here, Google subjects all class members to a common policy: Google collects, saves, and uses (s)WAA off data. *See, e.g.*, Hochman Rep. ¶¶ 87, 131, 268. Plaintiffs seek to enjoin that common practice and to enjoin Google’s ongoing use of (s)WAA-off data it currently stores, including products or algorithms built with that data. Mot. 25. In other words: Plaintiffs seek to make the button work. This is an appropriate remedy. *See, e.g., United States v. Kurbo, Inc.*, No. 3:22-CV-946, Dkt. 15 at II.D (N.D. Cal. Mar. 3, 2022) (enjoining further collection of data and requiring deletion of previously collected data, as well as algorithms developed in part using such data). In any event, Google’s arguments about the merits of these requests are premature. *See B.K. ex rel. Tinsley v. Snyder*, 922 F.3d 957, 971–72 (9th Cir. 2019) (refusing to entertain such arguments because “class certification is not a decision on the merits”).

**III. CONCLUSION**

The Court should certify the classes under both Federal Rules 23(b)(3) and 23(b)(2).

1  
2 Dated: September 21, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

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